

And what would have happened if something big had broken out somewhere else in the world? We could not have handled it, certainly not without a large loss of life.

Now it is our turn. We have to step up to the plate. We have to make sure that our country is free, first of all, and allows us the environment to consider these other priorities, which I can sympathize with. The administration, I will give them credit, has come a long way, but not nearly enough. This amendment is going to help a whole lot, but still not enough.

I will conclude with a personal note: Twelve years ago, God gave me a second chance at life when I received a double lung transplant. God has clearly seen fit to leave me here on earth for some reason. I have dedicated this extension of my life to doing the best I can to preserve our freedom. But, I cannot do it alone. Our military cannot do it alone. We need your help. We need everyone's help. When the time comes, I want to be able to say, "I've done my best." I want you to be able to say the same.

A TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
STEVEN CHEN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to the attention of my colleagues an article regarding Representative Steven Chen, who serves as the head of the Taipei Cultural and Economic Representative Office in Washington. The article, which ran in today's New York Times, is a fitting tribute to Taiwan's unofficial Ambassador, who has worked diligently to promote and expand relations between the United States and the 22 million citizens of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Chen is a thorough professional who has enjoyed a long and distinguished life as a career diplomat. He has represented his government all over the world, including postings in the Philippines, Brazil, Argentina, and Bolivia. His experience in the United States also is extensive. During the past 25 years, Ambassador Chen served in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, and he has spent the last three years as the Representative in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain my colleagues would agree that Steven Chen's charm and quiet demeanor have served Taiwan well. Whether meeting Members of Congress in their offices or Executive Branch officials in a more neutral setting, Ambassador Chen has always worked to make certain the United States and Taiwan remain strong friends.

Mr. Speaker, as the article notes, Ambassador Chen is planning to retire shortly. I am certain all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Steven Chen on a distinguished diplomatic career. We in the Congress are indeed fortunate to know him, and we wish him well in the years ahead.

[From the New York Times, April 3, 2000]
A DIPLOMATIC OUTSIDER WHO LOBBIES INSIDE
WASHINGTON

(By Philip Shenon)

WASHINGTON.—At an embassy that is not an embassy, the ambassador who is not an ambassador can only imagine what it is like to be a full-fledged member of Washington's diplomatic corps.

"In the evenings, you attend cocktail parties, champagne dances," Stephen Chen said wistfully of the black-tie world from which he is largely excluded. "This is the very routine, beautiful picture of the diplomat in a textbook."

Mr. Chen, the director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office, the de facto embassy here for the government of Taiwan, is a charming pariah.

While he represents the interests of 22 million of the freest and richest people in Asia, the 66-year-old diplomat might as well be invisible, at least as far as many of the State Department's China experts are concerned.

The snubs, Mr. Chen suggested, are an obvious effort to appease Beijing, and they are more than a little unfair to a government that is only weeks away from a peaceful transfer of power from one democratically elected leader to another, the first time that has happened in almost 5,000 years of Chinese history.

"There is a kind of unfairness," Mr. Chen tells a visitor, the wall behind his desk decorated with a painting of the delicate blossoms of the winter plum, Taiwan's national flower. "We have been a model student for freedom, democracy and a market economy."

"We don't mind if the United States has rapprochement with mainland China—we think it's good to bring the P.R.C. into the family of civilizations," he says of the People's Republic of China.

Because the United States has no diplomatic relations with Taiwan and has recognized the Communist government in Beijing as the sole representative of the people of China, Mr. Chen and his staff of nearly 200 are barred from the premises of the State Department.

They are not invited to diplomatic receptions at the White House, or to most of the dinner parties and glittery balls held at the embassies of nations that recognize Beijing.

When Taiwanese diplomats want to talk with Clinton administration officials, the meetings are often held in hotel coffee shops.

"We must meet in a neutral setting, that is the rule," says Mr. Chen, explaining the awkward logistics of the job.

Relations with China have been especially jittery since Taiwan's election last month of the new president, Chen Shui-bian, a former democracy activist who long advocated Taiwan's independence and whose victory ended half a century of Nationalist rule.

On the eve of the election, Chinese leaders all but warned of an invasion if Mr. Chen and his party were victorious. Since the election, both Mr. Chen and Beijing have softened their rhetoric, and Mr. Chen has recently insisted that he sees no need for an independence declaration.

Stephen Chen, who is not related to the new president, welcomes the moderated rhetoric from Taiwan's new government. The Communist leaders in Beijing, he says, would strike only "if they should be unnecessarily provoked."

"We have been dealing with them for more than 60 years," he said. "We know when they are bluffing, when they are not bluffing. If we don't give them an excuse, I don't think they're going to attack."

Mr. Chen, who was born in the Chinese city of Nanjing, last saw the mainland in 1949, when his family was on the run from the victorious Communist forces of Mao Zedong. They fled to Taiwan, his father a diplomat in the service of the Nationalist leader, Chiang Kai-shek.

His father was assigned to the embassy in the Philippines when Mr. Chen was 15, and he remained there for more than a decade, attending college in Manila, marrying his Chinese-Filipino high school sweetheart and becoming fluent in English.

In 1960, he returned to Taiwan and passed the foreign service exam. He was first sent to Rio de Janeiro, and then to Argentina and Bolivia. In 1973, he was named consul general to Atlanta, where he remained until the United States severed relations with Taiwan and recognized Beijing six years later.

Mr. Chen said he can remember sitting in his living room in Atlanta, watching the televised announcement by President Carter that the

"It seemed very unfair," he continued. "It was as if the United States wanted to reward a bad guy, the lousy student, and to punish the good student. That was my feeling."

In the years since, he said, Taiwanese diplomats have learned how to innovate, especially in Washington, where they employ some of the city's most powerful lobbyists and retain close ties to many prominent conservative members of Congress.

Mr. Chen says his office has an annual budget for lobbying of about \$1.2 million and contracts with 15 firms. "They help open doors, they make appointments for us," he said. "But we make the presentations."

Under a 1979 law, Taiwan can continue to buy American weapons.

And Mr. Chen has been a frequent visitor to Capitol Hill in recent weeks as his government seeks Congressional approval for the sale of a wish list of sophisticated weapons. "If we are deprived of basic defensive weapons, then of course we are thrown to the wolves," he said.

Mr. Chen is considering a visit to the lair of the wolves. After 40 years in the diplomatic service, he is nearing retirement, and he is planning a vacation on the mainland, which is now permitted.

"I tell you very frankly, I would like to see the Great Wall," he said. "This belongs to the legacy of China. It has nothing to do with Communism."

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 5

Time to be announced

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the energy potential of the 1002 area of the Arctic Coastal Plain; the role this energy could play in National security; the role this energy could play in reducing U.S. dependency on imported oil; and the legislative provisions of S. 2214, to establish and implement a competitive oil and gas leasing program that will result in an environmentally sound and job creating program for the exploration, development, and production of the oil and gas resources of the Coastal Plain. (Immediately following Full Committee Business Meeting).

SD-366

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Interior Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by a hearings on S. 612, to provide for periodic Indian needs assessments, to require Federal Indian program evaluations.

SR-485

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

Foreign Relations

International Operations Subcommittee

To hold hearings on United Nations peace keeping missions and their proliferation.

SD-419

Judiciary

Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee

To resume oversight hearings on the handling of the investigation of Peter Lee, focusing on the plea-bargain agreement reached in the case.

SH-216

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine political parties in America.

SR-301

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Defense, focusing on Army programs.

SD-192

Finance

To hold hearings on the pattern of improper payments in the school Medicaid program.

SD-215

2 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings on legacies of the Holocaust.

SD-419

APRIL 6

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD-138

Appropriations

Treasury and General Government Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Office of Drug Control Policy.

SD-124

Energy and Natural Resources

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings on the proposed five-year strategic plan of the U.S. Forest Service in compliance with Government Results and Performance Act.

SD-366

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings on the March 30, 2000, United States Army Civil Works Management Reforms.

SD-406

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings on interstate shipments of state inspected meat.

SR-328A

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine procedures and standards for the granting of security clearances at the Department of Defense.

SR-222

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Federal Trade Commission.

S-146, Capitol

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Aviation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine issues dealing with aviation security.

SR-253

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Richard C. Tallman, of Washington, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit; the nomination of John Antoon II, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida; the nomination of Marianne O. Battani, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan vice Anna Diggs Taylor, retired; the nomination of David M. Lawson, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan vice Avern Cohn, retired; H.R. 2260, to amend the Controlled Substances Act to promote pain management and palliative care without permitting assisted suicide and euthanasia; S. 1854, to reform the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976; and H.J. Res. 86, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and the service by members of the Armed Forces during such war.

SD-226

Foreign Relations

East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee

International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings on China in the World Trade Organization, focusing on United States high technology sector.

SD-419

Finance

To hold hearings to examine China's accession to the World Trade Organization.

SD-215

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Foreign Operations Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the International Financial Institutions.

SD-192

2:15 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters.

SH-219

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

Criminal Justice Oversight Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

SD-226

APRIL 11

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Interior Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Energy.

SD-138

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the effects of permanent, normalized trade relations with China on the U.S. economy.

SR-253

Armed Services

To hold hearings on the nominations of Bernard Daniel Rostker, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Gregory Robert Dahlberg, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army; and Madelyn R. Creedon, of Indiana, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration.

SR-222

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on S. 282, to provide that no electric utility shall be required to enter into a new contract or obligation to purchase or to sell electricity or capacity under section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978; S. 516, to benefit consumers by promoting competition in the electric power industry; S. 1047, to provide for a more competitive electric power industry; S. 1284, to amend the Federal Power Act to ensure that no State may establish, maintain, or enforce on behalf of any electric utility an exclusive right to sell electric energy or otherwise unduly discriminate against any consumer who seeks to purchase electric energy in interstate commerce from any supplier; S. 1273, to amend the Federal Power Act, to facilitate the transition to more competitive and efficient electric power markets; S. 1369, to enhance the benefits of the national electric system by encouraging

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and supporting State programs for renewable energy sources, universal electric service, affordable electric service, and energy conservation and efficiency; S. 2071, to benefit electricity consumers by promoting the reliability of the bulk-power system; and S. 2098, to facilitate the transition to more competitive and efficient electric power markets, and to ensure electric reliability.

SH-216

APRIL 12

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Corporation for National and Community Service, Community Development Financial Institutions, and Chemical Safety Board.

SD-138

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings on S. 2255, to amend the Internet Tax Freedom Act to extend the moratorium through calendar year 2006.

SR-253

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings on the report of the Academy for Public Administration on Bureau of Indian Affairs management reform.

SR-485

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Defense, focusing on missile defense programs.

SD-192

Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Wassenaar arrangement and the future of multilateral export control.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings to examine federal actions affecting hydropower operations on the Columbia River system.

SD-366

APRIL 13

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SD-138

Energy and Natural Resources

To resume hearings on S. 282, to provide that no electric utility shall be required to enter into a new contract or obligation to purchase or to sell electricity or capacity under section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978; S. 516, to benefit consumers by promoting competition in the electric power industry; S. 1047, to provide for a more competitive electric power industry; S. 1284, to amend the Federal Power Act to ensure that no State may establish, maintain, or enforce on behalf of any electric utility an exclusive right to sell electric energy or otherwise unduly discriminate against any consumer who seeks to purchase electric energy in interstate commerce from any supplier; S. 1273, to amend the Federal Power Act, to facilitate the transition to more competitive and efficient electric power markets; S. 1369, to enhance the benefits of the national electric system by encouraging and supporting State programs for renewable energy sources, universal electric service, affordable electric service, and energy conservation and efficiency; S. 2071, to benefit electricity consumers by promoting the reliability of the bulk-power system; and S. 2098, to facilitate the transition to more competitive and efficient electric power markets, and to ensure electric reliability.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 2034, to establish the Canyons of the Ancients National Conservation Area.

SD-366

APRIL 25

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 2239, to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost sharing for the endangered fish recovery implementation programs for the Upper Colorado River and San Juan River basins.

SD-366

APRIL 26

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Defense.

SD-192

SEPTEMBER 26

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building

CANCELLATIONS

APRIL 6

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings on the incinerator component at the proposed Advanced Waste Treatment Facility at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and its potential impact on the adjacent Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

SD-366

POSTPONEMENTS

APRIL 19

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by hearings on S. 611, to provide for administrative procedures to extend Federal recognition to certain Indian groups.

SR-485